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## The Pan American (2001-01-30)

Eladio Jaimez

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## BRONC Talk

**What should the athletic department do to increase attendance at Bronc Baseball?**

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## BUSINESS NEWS

■ If you're a Britney Spears fan - and let's face it, who isn't - it might be best to avoid London. According to a survey by the UK Consumers' Association, a CD of "Oops!...I did it again," Britney's fine new album, will set you back a whopping \$20.70 in the British capital - fully \$5 more than the average US retail price. Not a Britney fan? You're still better off shopping in the US, where designer threads like Calvin Klein boxers and Ralph Lauren polo shirts are a good 25-30% cheaper.

## SPORTS

■ Butch Davis announced his departure as the coach for the Miami Hurricanes, in order to take a vacancy with the Cleveland Browns. Davis previously served as defensive coordinator for the Dallas Cowboys. Miami's offensive coordinator, Larry Coker, was named interim coach.



The Student Newspaper of The University of Texas-Pan American

**TUESDAY**  
January 30, 2001

■ FEATURE

*Uniting a  
Community*

### An Inside Look:

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# Costly repairs

**\$1.75 million put into dorm renovations, cleanup**

By Eladio Jaimez and Eliza Lopez

The Pan American

UTPA has spent over \$1.75 million in renovations of the Women's and Troxel Hall and asbestos cleanup dating back to Fall 1999.

Physical plant director Marvin Boland said the renovations alone will cost UTPA over \$800,000 for

each dorm.

Despite spending over \$1.75 million, director of residence life Pat Zarate maintained a new facility was not necessary.

"The structure and the building is still good," Zarate said. "The room size, the layout is really good compared to others, so we decided to just keep it that way."

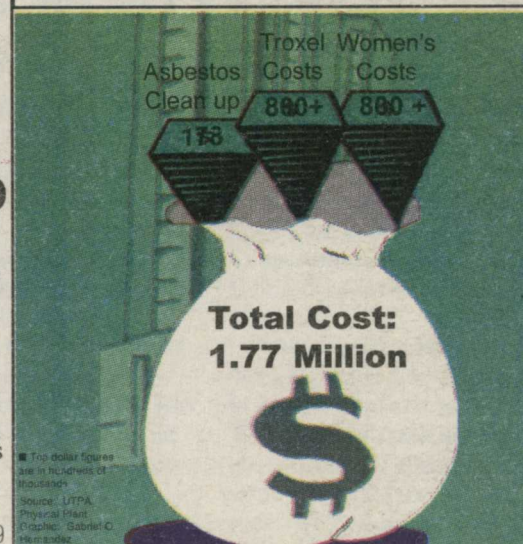
Unexpected repairs, not costs have delayed the completion of the dorms, though.

The Women Hall's original date of completion was Spring 2001, but plumbing problems in the fall delayed the process.

"We ran into plumbing problems while working on the Women's

See DORMS page 9

### Troxel and Womens Dormitory Renovation Expenses from '99 - '01



# Hiring process becomes long, tedious

**Administrator: 'It takes us about a good 8 to 12 months to rehire'**

By Daniel Garcia Ordaz

The Pan American

Filling vacant teaching positions at UTPA may take close to a year, administrators said.

Provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, Rodolfo Arevalo, is trying to improve the process.

The process of finding

new instructors to replace faculty who have retired or resigned is an ongoing, time consuming one.

"It takes us about a good 8 to 12 months to rehire," Arevalo said.

When Arevalo arrived at UTPA two years ago the process of approving requests for new hires took about 11 months.

Last year administrators completed the process in eight months, he said.

Arevalo said his hope is for departments to "get out in the marketplace earlier," bettering their chances of hiring personnel sooner.

"Some people took advantage of that," he said. "Some people didn't.

You try to light a fire under them but sometimes it's hard for them to get in gear."

Arevalo said department chairs with vacancies request a "hire" from their respective deans, then deans send a request to his office. After his approval, the university president finds funding for the new employment.

"One-year lecturers and emergency hires, the process can run just like that," he said, snapping his fingers. "They tell me, 'I have a need. Somebody resigned. We need to replace that person. We're starting classes in January. We just found out the first of December.'"

"I say, 'Do you have somebody that can take the position?' They say, 'Yes,' I say, 'Let's hire them,' " he said. "It's very fast if it's emergency hire."

Arevalo said UTPA's best chances of hiring instructors in a timely manner exist in encouraging departments to hire teachers on an "emer-

gency" basis. Such would-be lecturers come from local communities when possible.

A factor in extending the time it takes to hire new teachers is advertising, Arevalo said.

"We have to advertise," Arevalo said. "And that's because they want to use—not us [administration]—they [departments] want to use certain conferences or certain discipline journals to advertise and sometimes there's a lag period."

Arevalo said certain fields lack knowledgeable teachers who live locally, which makes it harder for UTPA to find public school or community college educators to teach additional sections.

"I think that's one of the reasons why linguistics is oversubscribed," he said. "I'm hoping they will have [two new professors] hired by then [Fall 2001]."

Arevalo said the English department is "interviewing right now" for new faculty. "It takes a while to replace them."



Construction crews put final touches on the new math building located between business and education building on Monday morning.

— Matt Lynch/The Pan American



# January 30

2001



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THE PAN AMERICAN is an official publication of The University of Texas-Pan American and is produced in the Communication Department. Views presented are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the university administration.

## Letters policy

Letters to the editor must include your name, address, and phone number. They will be printed on a space available basis.

# Opinion

letters ■ editorials

## Letters to the Editor

### Linguistics professors 'desperately needed,' administration 'dragging its feet' about hiring

Dear Editor:

I am a graduate student in the ESL program. I have been fighting this need for the hiring for additional linguistics professors for some months now. I entered the ESL graduate program in September of 1999. At that time, we had four linguistics professors---all excellent. Three of them, Dr. Edward Heckler, Dr. Pamela Anderson-Mejias, and Dr. Pamela McCurdy, were tenure-track professors who had each been teaching at UTPA for over ten years. The other position was filled by Dr. Alex Kravchenko, who was hired as a Lecturer to fill the position of Dr. Wei Zhu who left at the end of Spring 1998. We regrettably, lost Dr. McCurdy in January of 2000. The linguistics staff is vitally important to this university. They very ably provide courses for English majors, as well as for students majoring in Spanish, Bilingual Education, Early Childhood Education, and other disciplines. They provide courses that are demanding and rigorous and every student I have known who has taken linguistics courses has felt that our linguistics professors are among the most knowledgeable, well-prepared, student-oriented professors they have encountered at this institution. When a student takes a linguistic course here, he/she gets maximum "bang" for

his/her "buck." The administration has been dragging its feet far too long regarding the hiring of additional linguistics staff. They are desperately needed. Any administrator who does not see this need or who drags his feet in regard to meeting this need should exit the stage gracefully.

When an oil spill occurs, the CEO of the offending company faces the media and the public. When an airplane crashes, the CEO of the airline involved likewise faces the media and the public.

I find it curious that Dean Rocha would "decline an interview with *The Pan American* regarding the overcrowding situation." Is it not his duty to provide answers to his students and his faculty?

One final note. There are many problems that exist at this university, and I see them growing worse not better.

Professors in several of the departments within the College of Arts and Humanities are afraid to speak out, because they fear retaliation in some form. Their fear of retaliation might not be justified, but their fear of it and the silence that fear produces are real.

In addition, I have not noticed The Alumni Association (of which I was once a member) speaking out regarding issues that are adversely impacting currently enrolled students.

Moreover, I have not read any stories in *The Monitor* regarding problems at our institution, though, if I understand correctly, the newspaper in San Antonio picked-up at least one story that appeared last September or October in *The Pan American* regarding the results of the faculty evaluation of administrators.

I wrote President Nevarez last September regarding the need for more linguistics professors and a permanent Chair for the English Department. I wrote The Board of Regents last October regarding the results of the evaluation just mentioned and made them aware of the fact that many of the faculty members at UTPA were demoralized.

I now appeal to my fellow students to write, to complain, to insist that remedies be found for this classroom overcrowding problem and for inexcusable delays in filling faculty positions, as well as other problems that exist. The students are the ones with the power to do something, because they are the consumers of the services of this university and the quality of those services will affect the rest of their lives.

Sharon Reed-Miller  
Graduate student ESL

- Thumbs up to friends you can rely on:
- Thumbs up to people who write to *The Pan American*.
- Thumbs up to Billy Corgan staying bald and beautiful.
- Thumbs up to Britney Spears.



- Thumbs down to a boring Super Bowl.
- Thumbs down to working on Super Bowl Monday.
- Thumbs down to heartburn
- Thumbs down to Aerosmith performing with N'Sync.
- Thumbs down to scratched CDs of your favorite band.
- Thumbs down to lying fortune cookies.

An article, describing the overcrowded situation in some English classes, in *The Pan American* (1-23-01) read: "Rodolfo Rocha, dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, declined an interview with *The Pan American* regarding the overcrowding situation and safety concerns about the building under his care." It should have read: "Rodolfo Rocha, dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, could not be interviewed by *The Pan American* regarding the overcrowding situation and safety concerns about the building under his care."

## Want to get something off your chest?

Don't be shy. If we had your input we wouldn't have had to run this ad. Whether it be comments, complaints or you just want to rant about something... anything. It doesn't matter whether it was on or off the paper just make it current and interesting and we'll print your letter at the editor's discretion. Letters can be submitted to **CAS 171** or email us.



## BRONC Talk

What should the athletic department do to increase attendance at Bronc baseball?

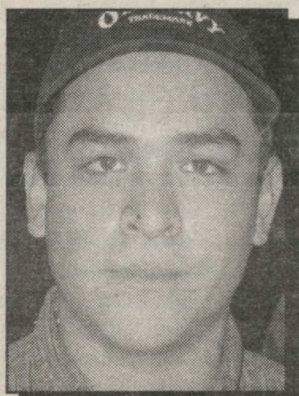
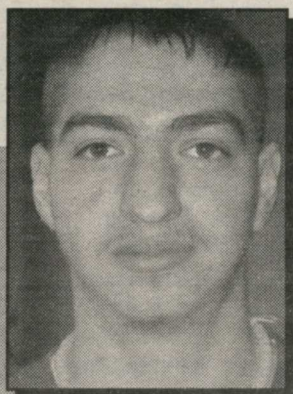
—Annette Martinez



**Erika Sharp**  
Are you a baseball Fan? Yes  
Attend Bronc baseball? No  
More advertisement.

**Isaiah Gutierrez**

Are you a baseball fan? Yes  
Attend Bronc baseball? Yes  
Give out prizes.



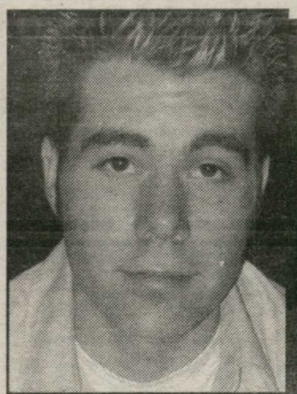
**Mario Puente**  
Are you a baseball fan? Yes  
Attend Bronc baseball? Yes

They should play better this year so they could win more games.

**Mario Martinez**

Are you a baseball fan? Yes  
Attend Bronc baseball? Yes

Serve alcohol.



**P.J. McClaird**  
Are you a baseball fan? No  
Attend Bronc baseball? No  
Make them free.



# Campus

news briefs

## UTPA receives nearly \$28 million for GEAR-UP project

### Special to The Pan American

To help students in the Rio Grande Valley pursue a post-secondary education, the U.S. Department of Education awarded nearly \$28 million Thursday to The University of Texas-Pan American for a collaborative project with 23 middle schools in 12 school districts stretching from Rio Grande City to Brownsville.

Provided through the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR-UP), the five-year award of \$27,907,605 was announced by Congressman Rubén Hinojosa (D-Mercedes) at the International Trade and Technology Building at UTPA. It is believed to be among the largest awards in program history.

"We have a big gap to close

in terms of investing in our children, but it can be closed," said Hinojosa, who was surrounded by community leaders, superintendents, educators and middle school students.

"These funds will help us do whatever it takes to help students graduate and take the Rio Grande Valley's percentage of graduates to more than 90 percent. That is our goal, and I look forward to the day when we can see all children graduate from high school."

The UTPA GEAR-UP effort, "Yes, You Can Go To College, ¡Sí, Se Puede!" will develop and offer comprehensive services like mentoring, counseling, outreach, awareness and more. It will assist about 7,000 economically disadvantaged Valley students.

"Some states have not received this amount of money, so this award is very gratify-

ing, and I want to congratulate everyone who was involved in this effort, especially Congressman Hinojosa," said UTPA President Dr. Miguel A. Nevárez.

"Congressman Hinojosa has done his work, and now it's up to us. Our students in South Texas are not participating in post-secondary education at the same rate as the rest of the state. We're going to have to be patient, but I think we're headed in the right direction."

Through GEAR UP, high poverty middle schools partner with at least two community and business organizations and local colleges and universities to provide students at a particular grade level (typically beginning in sixth or seventh grade) and their families with comprehensive support services to pre-

See **GEAR-UP**, page 9

## University Police Blotter

### Criminal Trespass Warning:

On 1-05-01 at 9:27 a.m. a male construction worker was issued a criminal trespass warning for coming on campus and threatening a fellow worker. The male worker was upset about a discrepancy on his paycheck. The male subject left the area without incident.

### Theft:

On 1-09-01 at 2:23 p.m. a male staff member of the Engineering Building reported four computer towers were stolen from a room on the second floor of the Engineering Building. The computers were stolen between 12-21-00 and 1-08-01. No signs of forced entry.

### Theft:

On 1-10-01 at 3:20 p.m. a male staff member of the University Library reported a computer was stolen from a room on the first floor of the University Library. The computer was stolen between 12-08-00 and 1-09-01. No signs of forced entry.

### Theft:

On 1-12-01 at 8:53 a.m. a male faculty member of the Fine Arts Building reported a Stereo Cassette/CD Player was stolen from his office at the Fine Arts Building. The stereo was stolen between 12-08-00 and

1-09-01. No signs of forced entry.

### Criminal Trespass:

On 1-17-01 at 11:35 a.m. a male subject was arrested for criminal trespass at the University Bookstore. The male subject was arrested for a Burglary of Habitation that occurred at the Bronc Village Apartments in the month of November 2000. He was issued a criminal trespass warning during this encounter. The male subject was jailed in the Hidalgo County Jail.

### Disorderly Conduct:

On 1-18-01 at 10:38 a.m. a male staff member reported a male student entered the Payments and Collections Office and used vulgar language when his check cashing request was denied. Male student left prior to officer arrival. The male subject was referred to the Dean of Students Office for disciplinary action.

■ ■ ■

Anyone with information on these or any campus crimes please contact the University Police Department at 316-7151 or call Crime Stoppers at 381-2666. Internet messages can be sent to [crimeline@panam.edu](mailto:crimeline@panam.edu).



# Fall 2000 Dean's List

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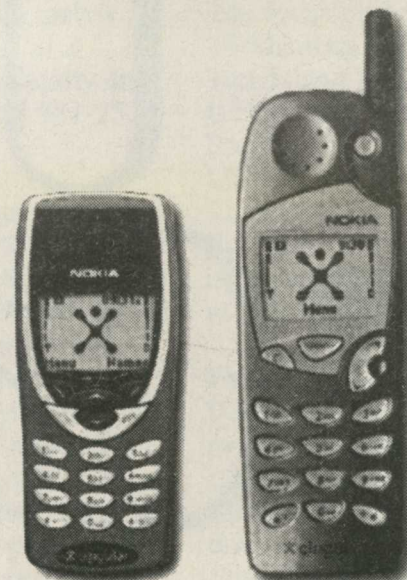
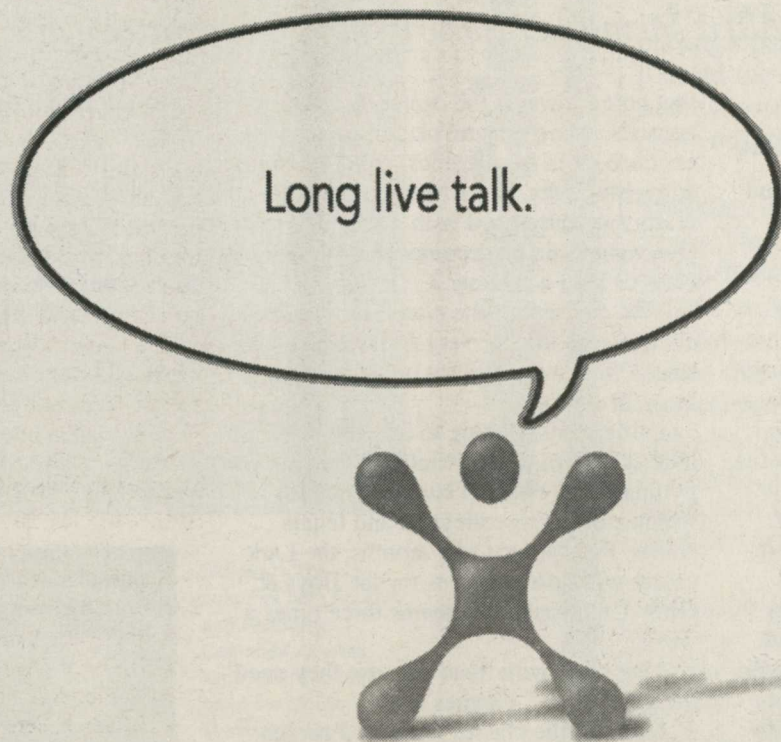


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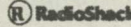
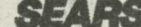
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Photos by  
Gabriel Hernandez

## COMMUNITY CENTERS

• Lark Community Center and Branch Library.

**Where:** 2601 Lark Avenue in North McAllen.

• Palmview Community Center and Branch Library.

**Where:** 3401 Jordan Road, South McAllen.

Both facilities offer morning and evening classes and programs for children, teens, adults and senior citizens. A branch library with online computers provides residents with equal access to the main library.

# UNITING a COMMUNITY

*With the opening of two community centers and branch libraries last week, the city of McAllen hopes to provide all city residents with access to community programs and educational classes as well as access to the McAllen Memorial Library through computers with Internet connection*

**By Melissa Soto**  
The Pan American

The city of McAllen celebrated the grand opening of two community centers and branch libraries last week.

Both the Lark Community Center and Branch Library, located at 2601 Lark Ave., and Palmview Community Center and Branch Library, located at 3401 Jordan Road, were constructed as part of a city plan to provide all McAllen residents equal access to community programs and educational classes.

"Now that we have [centers] spread out through north, central and south McAllen, we're hoping we're really going to increase the demand for these classes," said Travis Hughes, Lark Community Center manager.

The Lark facility, on the north side, and the Palmview facility, on the south side, will

work in conjunction with the Senior Citizen's Center on 1921 North 25th St. in providing morning and evening programs and classes for children, teens and adults.

Built from the same blue-print, both facilities break down into approximately two-thirds of the 31,500 sq.

feet going towards the center. Each center consists of two general classrooms, a large exercise room for aerobics, ballet, tumbling and gymnastics, and a heat resistant arts and crafts room equipped with a kiln. The general classrooms can be accommodated to fit a dance class or hold a seminar.

"We can set up [the classrooms] in a variety of ways, they're very flexible," Hughes said. "We have tables set up that we can bring in and out."

Participants looking to improve their athletic skills can take advantage of the indoor gymnasium's two full basketball courts which convert to volleyball and tennis courts. For the next two months, the Lark center will host practices for the Boys & Girls' Club basketball teams three times a week.

"We work with them because they need the gym space," Hughes said.

Many of the classes have a 15 person enrollment limit and are instructed by college students and retired persons with knowledge in the subject. Some classes require a fee to cover the basic cost of materials and pay the instructor.

The community centers are open from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Fridays and 9:00 to 3:00 on Saturdays. Classes began yesterday.

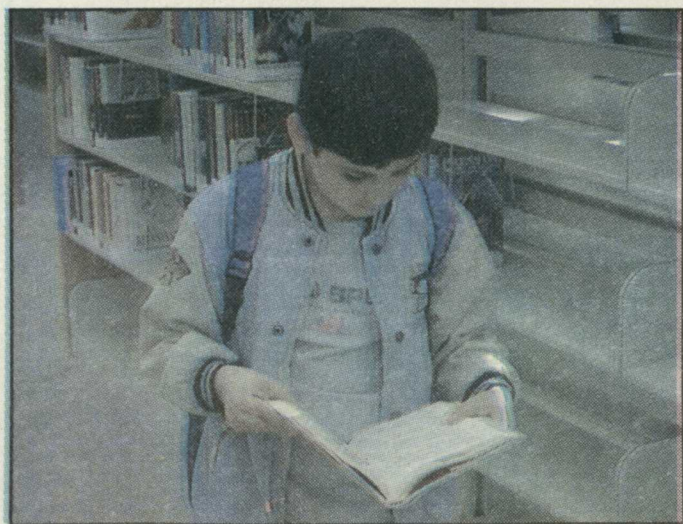
The remaining one-third of the building consists of the branch library. As part of the McAllen Memorial Library, residents do not need to reapply for a new library card to check out books.

In addition, Jose Gamez, librarian and manager of the north branch library, says the two libraries will be working together. Any books not available at the branch library can

be transferred from the main library through requests.

"Most of the services are the same," Gamez said. "If you check out books here and you return it at the main library they will send them back to us."

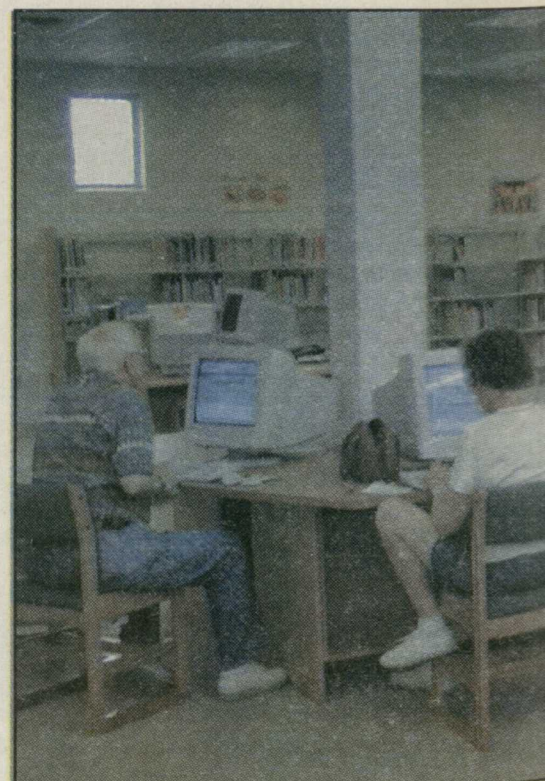
Currently the library holds 6,000 books, some which were newly purchased, transferred from the main library or donated. Magazines on display and videos can also be checked out. The library has six computers with online access, and additional computers for a lab will be available within the a few months.



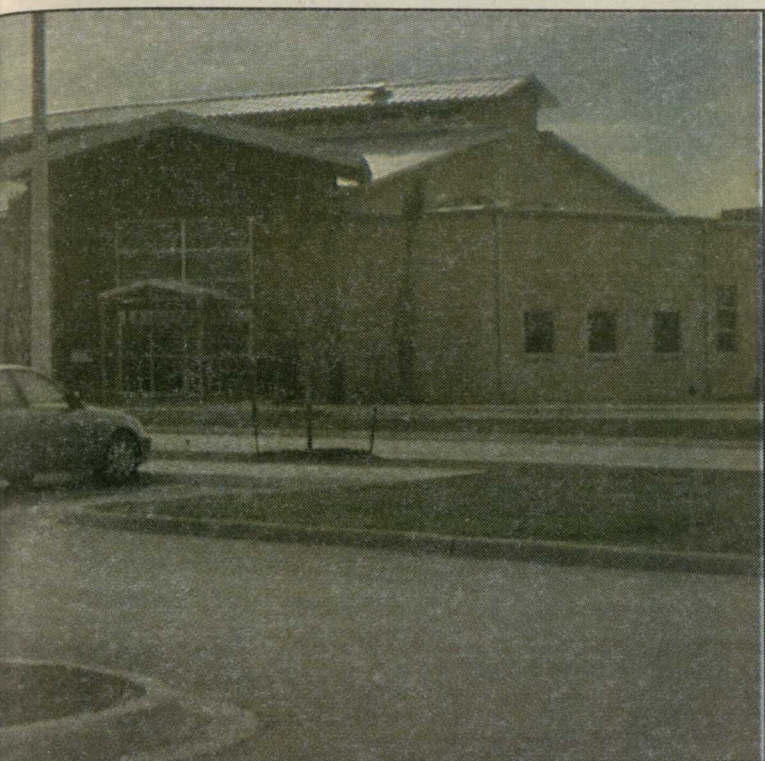
Nick Olivares catches up on some reading at the Lark Community Center branch library. The library currently holds nearly 6,000 books and magazines



Both the Lark Community Center at 2601 Lark Avenue and the Palmview Community Center at 3401 Jordan Road in south McAllen will be used







Lark Ave. in north McAllen (above) and the Palmview Community Center at 3401 Lark Ave. to give residents equal access to community programs and educational programs.



(Above) - The computers at both the Lark and Palmview Community Center libraries are connected to the McAllen Memorial Library so that books unavailable at the branches can be transferred.

(Left) - Richard Dolezal (far left) and Marilyn Prowett (white shirt) take advantage of the computers located in the library branch at the Lark Community Center.

## Campus Calendar

# January

**Tuesday, January 30** Women's Wellness Clinic sponsored by Student Health Services. Pap smear, pelvic exam and breast exams are at a reduced rate for students, faculty and staff. For appointments call 381-2511.

**Tuesday, January 30** Career Placement Services presents "Dress for Career Success Style Show for Men and Women" in the Student Union Theatre at noon. Models will be from UTPA and will show clothing recommended for interviews and at the workplace. Business professional and business casual clothing will be modeled. Refreshments will be served and door prizes will be given away. For more information, stop by Career Placement Services in Room 147 of the Student Services Building.

**Tuesday, January 30** The new University Writing Center will officially open during a ribbon-cutting/open house from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Library Lobby. Refreshments will be served. The ribbon-cutting is scheduled for 10 a.m.

**Tuesday, January 30** The UTPA Music Department hosts a cello recital of Dr. Brent Smith at 8 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium. Smith, a new faculty member at UTPA, teaches lower strings in the Music Department as well as music theory and music appreciation at La Joya Arts Academy. Smith will be accompanied by pianist John Raimo and flutist Marcie Smith.

**Through January 31** Student Health Services offers a Flu Shot Special (while supplies last). The shots are \$7 (usually \$10) for all UTPA students, staff and faculty. Student Health Services is located on the first floor of Emilia Hall.

**Thursday, February 1** Dr. Patti Lather from Ohio State University will lecture at 6 p.m. in the Student Union Theater. Lather, a professor in educational policy and leadership and women's studies, will discuss "The Possibilities of Paradigm Proliferation in Educational Research." The event is free and open to everyone. For more information contact Dr. Maricela Oliva at 316-7173.

**Friday, February 2 and Saturday, February 3** The second annual

Counseling and Rehabilitation Issues Conference will be held on campus. The focus of the conference, "Addictions Counseling: Current Trends and Issues," is hosted by the UTPA Rehabilitative Services Program, in conjunction with the UTPA-Texas Addictions Technology Transfer Center/Addictions Studies Program. To register, or for more information, contact Judith Guetzow at 318-5240.

**Friday, February 9-11, 16-18** The UTPA Folkloric Dance Company will present their last series of ALEGRIA 2000-2001 concerts. Thirty-six dancers and musicians bring the drama and excitement of Mexico and Spain's dance and music to life. The concerts are held Friday, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m., Saturday Feb. 10 and Sunday, Feb. 11 at 2 p.m., Friday Feb. 16 at 7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 17 and Sunday, Feb. 18 at 2 p.m. All concerts are in the UTPA Fine Arts Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. For more information, call 381-2230.

**Friday, February 23 and Saturday, February 24** The UTPA Music Department presents the UTPA Mariachi in concert on Feb. 23 and 24 at 7 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium. The Mariachi will be performing traditional mariachi music including songs Jaliscienses, canciones rancheras and baladas romanticas. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. For more information, call 381-3471.

**Until Monday, February 26** The University Gallery hosts "Homo Mechanicus Defectio" (Human Mechanical Defects) by Lenard Brown. A reception for the exhibit is Jan. 25 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the University Gallery in the Communication Arts and Sciences Building. Admission is free and the gallery is open Monday through Friday. For more information call the gallery at 381-2655.

**Before March 20** The staff of GALLERY, UTPA's multi-award-winning student journal, is looking for students willing to submit their poetry, short stories, art or photos for publication in this year's issue. Submissions may be dropped off at CAS 266 before March 20, 2001.





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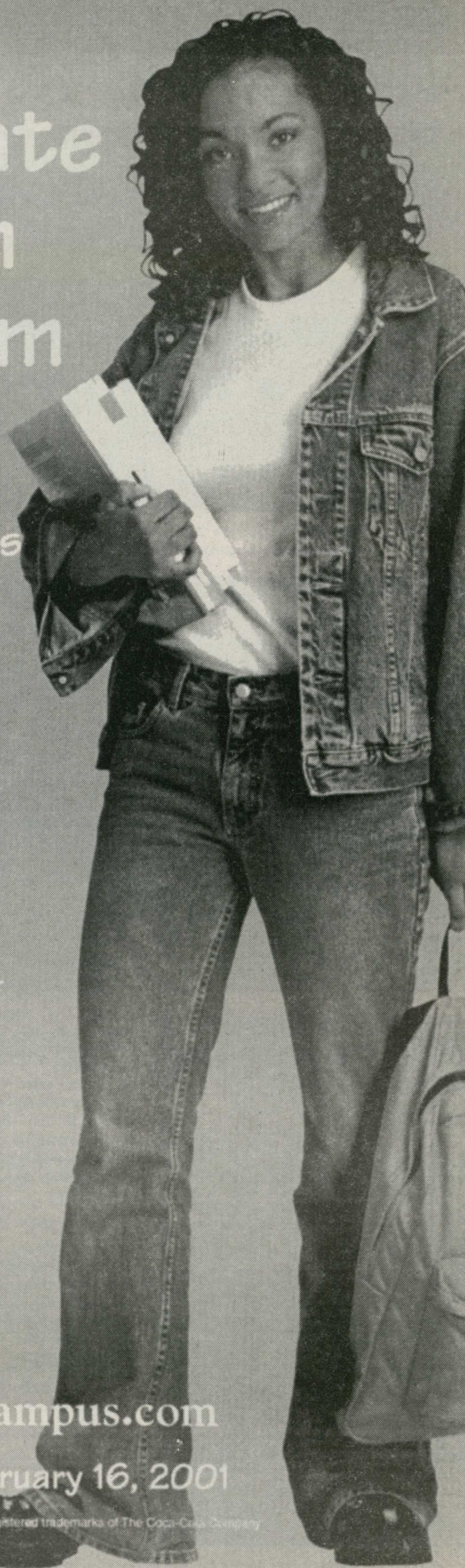
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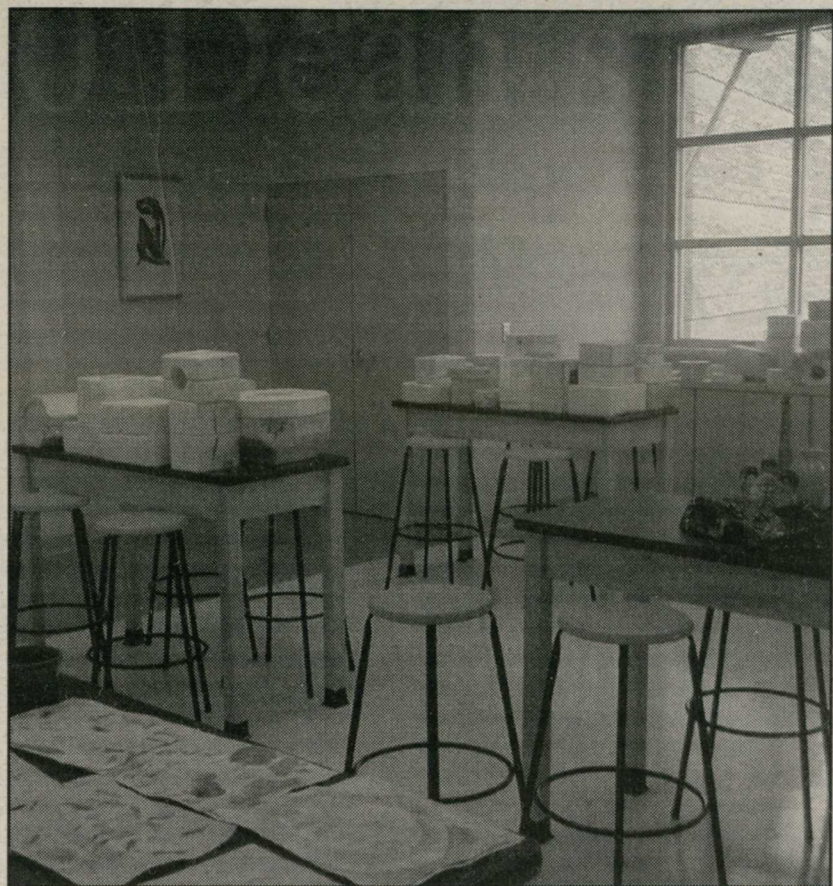
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- Gabriel Hernandez/The Pan American

**STILL ART:** This art room is one of many activity rooms located in the new Lark Community Center in north McAllen. Art is one of many activities the center hopes to promote.

### Interested in Community Service?

Circle K International is the world's premier collegiate community service organization. With more than 11,000 members in 520+ clubs worldwide, joining Circle K can offer you opportunities to serve, lead, make friends & learn more about the world outside the classroom. Come join our campus club at its next informational meeting.

Place: CAS Bldg. Rm. 177  
Date: **Feb. 1, 2000 (TODAY)**  
Time: 12:00-1:00 (Activity Period)



- For Questions
- you may call:
- Frank Mendieta
- @ 630-8252 or
- Jaime-381-2524

## DORMS

continued from page 1

Hall," Zarate said. "That delayed completion until early May."

Zarate said Troxel Hall should be ready no later than June.

She said the addition of sprinkler systems and network connections for Internet contributed to the delay.

She said sprinkler systems aren't required, but UTPA wanted the dorms to be safe for the students.

"We've added more to the job," Zarate said. "Replacing all piping, air condition systems, sprinkler systems, and having all rooms cleaned of asbestos is what has taken us long with the dorms."

Residents of the Women's Hall have now been out of their hall for over a year. They were moved to Troxel Hall and then to the Bronc Village, along with residents of Troxel last fall.

Zarate said students were placed in Bronc Village so UTPA wouldn't pay more somewhere else.

"Students should be happy," Zarate said. "We are covering their utility bills and we haven't had any students wanting to get out."

Dorm students staying in Bronc Village still have to pay dorm fees and follow all dorm rules.

Zarate said dorm rules only apply to dorm students, but Bronc Village residents have rules they have to follow as well.

"They [Bronc Village] think they're not bound by university rules," Zarate said. "Its university property and we're responsible for them. They blame dorm students for bringing dorm rules, but they have rules they have to follow anyway."

Vice president for enrollment and student services John Edwards said the university's goal is making the dorms first class.

"That's part of the reason we've delayed," Edwards said. "It's a remodeling job. It's a massive job. They've had to go into the foundation and the walls. You have to consider these buildings have been here for about 30 years."

## GEAR-UP

continued from page 3

pare for college - including enhanced curricular offerings, summer academies, information about college options and the college application process, and financial aid.

The program offers academic preparation and higher-level coursework to each class of participating students not only during middle school but also throughout high school.

"We're here today to celebrate a great investment in the Rio Grande Valley," said Dr. Hilda Medrano, dean of the UTPA College of Education, who presented Hinojosa with a poster and thank-you letters from children in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade.

"This will impact not just the education of students but also the quality of life in the Rio Grande Valley. It is through education that we can make a difference."

The 23 Valley middle schools represented are Central, Cummings, Oliveira and Stell in the Brownsville Independent School District; Veterans in the Donna ISD; Memorial in the Edinburg ISD; Ann Richards, Chavez, Memorial and Schunior in the La Joya ISD; Lasara in the Lasara ISD; Brown and Lincoln in the McAllen ISD; and K. White in the Mission Consolidated ISD.

Also, Alamo, Austin, Memorial and

## LIST

continued from page 4

Haydee Alvarez **SANTA MARIA, TX:** Carmen Acosta, Marivel Rivera **SANTA ROSA, TX:** Adrian Arellano, Adrian Ramirez **SEBASTIAN, TX:** Joann Delarosa, Robert Rodriguez **SULLIVAN CITY, TX:** Heraclio Flores, Denise Ramirez, Karina Johana Tanguana, Marlen Villarreal **VAN, TX:** Sonja M. Cummings **WEIMA, TX:** Matthew Bryan Kutac **WESLACO, TX:** Farah Sultana Ahmed, Saba S Ahmed, Melissa Lauren Alejandro, Natalie Ayala, Jose Angel Balli, Dahmayysi A Banda, Joseph Banda, Gisela Buenrostro, Esmeralda Cancino, Irene Cantu, Leticia Cardenas, Anavel Castillo, Viviane C. Castillo, Erica Dee Cavazos, Ricardo Cavazos, Melissa M Ciomperlik, Maya J Conlon Kremer, Mona L Contreras, Sandra Contreras, Isaura Deleon, Anel Faz, Tanya L Fernandez, Elisa Flores, Isaac Flores, Joyce D. Fox, Miguel A Garces, Jose Garza-Moreno, Thelma Gaytan, Juan de Dios Gomez, Jolisa E. Gonzalez, Trenton J. Gray, Eric Paul Green, Claudia Hernandez, Bettina Herrra, Blanca Ysela Herrera, Salvador Marcos Hinojosa, Angelina Jackson, Dalila Mae Kellogg, Leonardo L Leija, Linda Didion Lopez, Marina P. Lopez, Diana Lucio, Brandon P Meiners, Richard Jonathan Miller, Carlos Ali Mora, Amanda Guadalupe Munoz, Susana Munoz, Dina Murillo, Michelle L Oldham, Marie Elaine Q Oribello, Israel Ortiz, Victoria Ortiz, Sarah A Owens, Joshua Sio Moses Pedraza, Flor L Penuelas, Estella H Perez, Adrian Reyna, Jose Alberto Rios, David Robledo, Elodia Rodriguez, Omar Eduardo Rodriguez, Lyza Elaine Salinas, Jorge A. Suarez, Anelle Laura Tapia, Marissa Yvette Villarreal, Angel R. Ybarra, Liliana Zapata **ZAPATA, TX:** Laura I Dominguez

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# Men's Basketball Independent Notes

## Independent "Conference" Resumes This Week:

Stony Brook continues to lead in the overall independent standings, but Texas A&M-Corpus Christi got off to a strong start in Independent Games, with a pair of wins over Centenary and Albany last week. Both teams are on a roll right now with the Sea Wolves on a two-game winning streak to go one game over .500 and the Islanders on a three-game streak to reach the .500 mark. Belmont will have two Independent games this week, taking on both Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and Centenary. UT Pan American is the only Independent off this week.

Ronnie McCollum of Centenary, leads the nation in scoring with a 27.5 per game average.

**Player of the Week:**  
Ronnie McCollum, Centenary

Team	Overall			Indepen.			Streak
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.	
SUNY-Stony Brook	11	9	.550	1	0	.000	W2
TAM-CC	10	11	.476	2	2	.500	L1
UT Pan American	8	11	.421	1	0	1.000	W1
Belmont	8	11	.421	1	1	.500	L1
Centenary	7	12	.368	2	1	.667	W3
Albany	4	17	.200	0	3	.000	L7

McCollum scored 39 points in a close 90-85 loss at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. He was 13 of 25 from the field, including 3 of 8 from three-point range and 10 of 11 from the free throw line, before fouling out with 10.1 seconds remaining in the game. For the season, McCollum is the nation's leading scorer at 27.5 ppg, and he has scored over 30 points in his last four contests, in which he has averaged 36.5 ppg.

**Rankings:** The rankings got much more interesting this week. Stony Brook remains on top with a 209th place ranking in the latest

Sagarin Rating. UTPA made a big move from 238th to 219th in the rankings. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi moved up 10 spots to 224th and Belmont is up three to 234th. Centenary is 270th and Albany is 305th.

**2000-01 Preseason All-Independent Team:** There were few surprises in the voting for the 2000-01 Preseason All-Independent Team and Most Valuable Player Voting. Michael Hicks of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi was named Preseason Player of the Year, after earning the honor for the 2000-01 season.

**1999-2000 Season Review:** Corpus Christi, UTPA Big Winners at Year's End: The two highest rated Independents played like it at season's end and finished with the top two overall records. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi finished a strong first season with a six-game win streak to post the best record among Independents at 13-13. UTPA defeated Centenary and Washington State for a final record of 12-16. Albany had the best record against Independent teams at 3-0, but played only Stony Brook and Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

## UTPA Broncs vs. Wright State Raiders

The Broncs faced the Raiders for the first time, last season. The Broncs defeated Wright State 63-60 in the second game of the season at the Fieldhouse.

In the game, Brian Merriweather was the leading scorer with 22 points and Kyle Sanders added 19 points.

The Raiders started out the season strong, winning nine of their first 10 games. Then, a mid-season swoon hit and WSU lost five of seven. But they have rebounded to win two of the last three, including a 76-73 win over Illinois-Chicago Saturday night. Four Raiders are scoring in double figures, led by Kevin Melson with 16.2



- Derek Smolik

The UTPA Broncs begin their last season at Jody Ramsey Stadium with a double header against Lamar on Saturday.

## Sports Calendar

January 31

### Men's Basketball



1/31 at Wright State Dayton, Ohio 6 p.m.

**Notes:** The Broncs won the last matchup, played at the Fieldhouse, by a score of 63-60.

February 2

### Women's Tennis



2/2 Missouri San Marcos, Texas 9 a.m.

**Notes:** The Lady Broncs began the season by defeating Southeastern Louisiana, 4-3.

February 2-3

### Track & Field



2/2-3 Texas Tech Invitational Lubbock

**Notes:** UTPA had several players with strong performances in the LSU Purple Tiger Invitational, including one broken record.

February 3

### Baseball

2/3 Lamar (DH) Jody Ramsey 1 p.m.

**Notes:** The Broncs begin the season against an opponent they faced last year. The teams split two games played at Beaumont.

February 3

### Women's Basketball

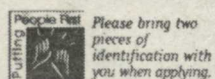


2/3 Lipscomb Fieldhouse 4 p.m.

**Notes:** This game marks a stretch of six games to end the season for the Lady Broncs, with five of the games at home.

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EOE



# Summa breaks high jump record in opener

## ◆ Perla Handy continues success

### Sports Information

The University of Texas-Pan American opened its 2001 indoor track and field season with several strong performances at the LSU Purple Tiger Invitational, held at the Carl Maddox Fieldhouse.

Senior Perla Handy, formerly Perla Rios, picked up the Broncs lone win of the day, racing away from the field to win the 5,000-meter in 19:03. Handy's time was personal best by 30 seconds and was 21 second better than the second place individual.

Also on the women's side freshman Valerie Summa jumped 5-5 3/4 in her first meet as a Lady Bronc. That height placed her third overall in the event. Olaya Teran took sixth in the 800 meter with a time of 2:20.72.

On the men's side freshman, Robert Lopez had a strong first performance in the shot put with a throw of 47' 7", good for eighth place overall. Freshman Mike Sperry took 10th in the pole vault

### Women's Indoor Record

#### High Jump

1. Valerie Summa 5'-5 3/4"
2. Naomi Kramer 5'-3 3/4" 1/28/94

#### Recent Records

#### Triple Jump

Judy Kotey 40'-6-0" 1/16/99

#### 20-Pound Weight Throw

Dawne Hill 45'-6 1/2" 2/6/99

with a height of 14' 5 1/4". Rashaad Ben took 17th in a loaded 60-meter high hurdles field with a time of 8.63.

"We had a good day," said Head Coach Dan Laufer. "I think we took the first step to what should be a good season. We had some outstanding performances against national caliber athletes."

The track and field teams return to action next weekend at the Texas Tech Invitational on February 2-3 in Lubbock, Texas.



### Valerie Summa

#### Summa Profile

Event: Jumps  
Height: 5-8  
Classification: Fr.  
Hometown: Smithville, Mo

**Highlights:** Has career bests of 5' 9" in the high jump, 35' 8.25" in the triple jump and 17' 1.5" in the long jump. Her 5' 9" in the high jump is just 1 1/2 inches off the NCAA provisional qualifying standard.



-Bernie Saenz

**Freshman Valerie Summa started off the season by jumping 5-5 3/4 in her first meet as a Lady Broncs**

# Bison defense tramples Lady Broncs

### Special to The Pan American

A stingy man-to-man defense caused 14 turnovers in the first half as the Lipscomb University Lady Bisons built a 17-point halftime lead and cruised to a 73-46 win over the visiting University of Texas - Pan American Lady Broncs.

The Lady Broncs (9-13) jumped out to an early 4-2 lead thanks to a tough defense which frustrated the Lady Bisons. Lipscomb, however, found it's offensive groove and went on a 15-2 run to pull ahead 17-6 at the 11:27 mark.

The Lady Bisons (13-8) opened the lead to 14 points (22-8) by the 8:55 mark, but UTPA when on a 7-0 run over the next four and one-half minutes to pull within 22-15.

But thanks to an 11-4 run in one and one-half minutes the Lady Bisons stretched the margin back to 14 (33-19) with three minutes left in the half. The teams played even the rest of the way and Lipscomb held a 40-23 edge at the half.

In the second half, the Lady Bisons employed a strong man-to-man defense and pulled away, eventually building the lead to

30 points (70-40) at the 2:45 mark.

Freshman guard Kendra Ramsey led the Lady Bisons with 18 points, she hit three-of-five three-pointers and shot seven-of-13 overall. Sophomore guard Renee Logan added 14 and freshman guard Tiffany Ramsey had 13. Sophomore post Emily Gribble had nine rebounds. Senior guard Chuveron Terry led UTPA with 11 points.

The Lady Bisons are in action next on Thursday at Houston (TX) Baptist, a top NAIA team. UTPA's next game will be a rematch with Lipscomb Saturday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. at the Fieldhouse.

### Previous Game

Naima Williams tied her career high with 25 points and had her fifth double-double of the season, but it wasn't enough as Belmont built a big first half lead and held off a late UT Pan American charge for a 78-68 win Saturday afternoon at Stricklin Gym.

Williams, a sophomore from Houston, made 8-of-11 shots from the field and all nine of her



-Sports Information

### Naima Williams 25 points were not enough to held the Lady Broncs get past the Belmont Bruins on Saturday.

free throw attempts in the loss. Her perfect night from the free throw line tied the school record. Belinda Beonhomme made all nine of her free throws against New Orleans on December 28, 1992. Her 25 points tied her career high set against Centenary

in the Lady Broncs last game. She also pulled down 11 rebounds, giving her the fifth double-double of the season.

As a team the Lady Broncs were also perfect from the free throw line, hitting on all 18 shots from the charity stripe, a school

record. The previous best was 90.5% (13-14) set against Central Florida on January 30, 1992.

Three other Lady Broncs scored in double figures, led by Radiah Sinnette, who had 15 points and six rebounds. Cheveron Terry scored 13 points, while Alexandra Gravel came off the bench to score 11 points, including three three-pointers. Natalie Brown led the way for the Bruins with 19 points.

UTPA played BU tough for the first 12 minutes of the game and trailed just 24-22 with 8:11 left in the game. However the Bruins went on a 19-6 run to take a 15-point lead late in the second half. Two free throws cut the advantage to 13 points at 43-30 going into halftime.

Williams helped lead the Lady Broncs back in the second half. An 11-2 run late in the second half cut the Bruin lead to just four points at 67-63 with 2:18 left. But the run seemed to take the steam out of the Lady Broncs as the Bruins scored nine of the last 13 points of the game to win by a 10-point margin.

With the loss the Lady Broncs fell to 9-12 on the season, while Belmont improved to 8-11.



# Conference play starts off on bad note

**Matt Lynch**  
The Pan American

The UTPA men's tennis team began its membership in the Southland Conference Saturday, but not the way head men's tennis coach Scott Howard wanted, losing to Southeastern Louisiana 4-3.

"The loss puts us in a big hole to start off the season," Howard said. "That was a match I thought we should have won. That's a team we need to beat if we want to finish in the top half (of the Southland Conference standings)."

Howard went on to say that every conference match is important for the Broncs. "We don't have another conference match for a month," he said. "We've started off 0-1, and a month's a long time to have that taste in your mouth. I'm sure the guys can't wait to get back on the court."

The Broncs played well in the singles portion of the event, winning three of six matches. Senior Enrique Bastante pounded Aaron Tessier 6-0, 6-2, while Junior Kareem Abdullah recorded a victory by beating Milos Vasovic 6-1, 6-7, 11-9. Freshman Pierre Cantu earned the last Broncs'

team point by beating Phillippe Darveau 6-4, 6-4.

The doubles competition proved to be a thorn in the Broncs' side, however, with UTPA losing the doubles point by dropping two of three doubles matches. The Broncs' team of Bastante and Cantu picked up the lone victory for UTPA in doubles, beating the team of Tessier and Eric Subriats 8-6.

"Doubles has been our Achilles' heel all year," Howard said. "Our team is not very aggressive by nature, and doubles is a game of attacking and aggressive play. Our guys play more of a defensive, counter-punching style, which is not conducive to doubles play."

The Broncs preceded the loss to Southern Louisiana with another loss Friday, falling 7-0 to Texas A&M, ranked fifth in the nation.

"We played pretty well against A&M," Howard said. "Although we didn't win a match, most of the matches were competitive."

Many of the matches were close, including two 8-6 decisions in both the number one and number three doubles matches. Sophomore Matt Gower and Senior Enrique Bastante also had strong showings in the singles.

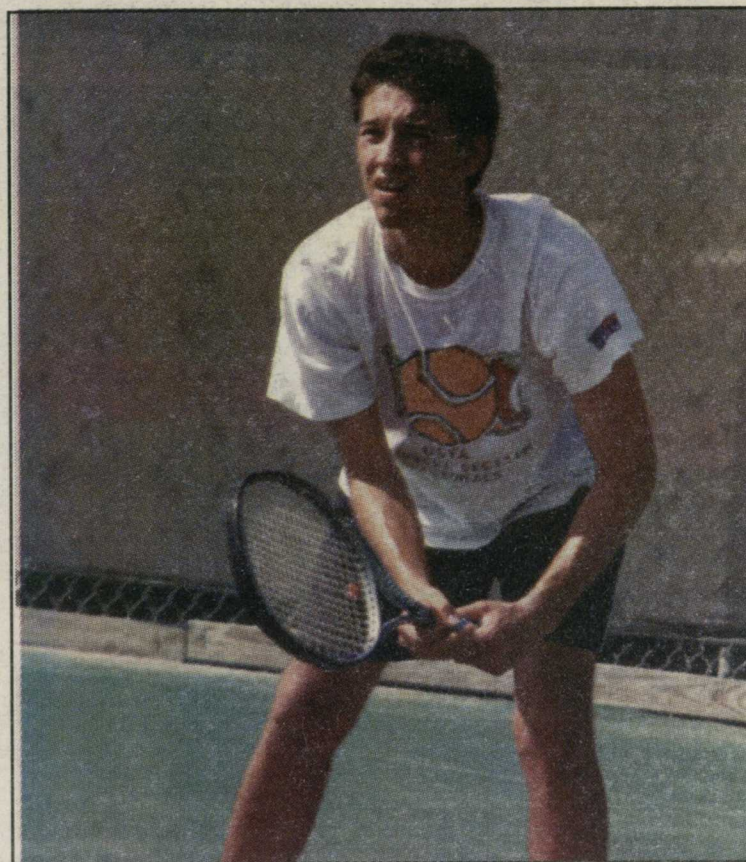
Gower, the Broncs number one singles player, fell 6-3, 6-4 to Cody Hubbell, while Bastante, playing number two singles for the Broncs, was edged 7-6, 6-3 by Keith From.

By playing a difficult opponent before their first conference match of the season, Howard hoped facing the Aggies would prepare his team for Southeastern Louisiana, but the challenge failed to have the desired effect.

"I thought playing the number five team in the country would prepare us to play the next day, but we didn't capitalize," he said. "We rise to the occasion and have enough guys step up."

The Broncs have two weeks to prepare for a full weekend of tennis on their home courts. The Broncs start the home stand by playing Texas Lutheran and Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Saturday, Feb. 10, and close with Incarnate Word the following day. This is the only time throughout the season the Broncs have a week off between events, and Howard believes the Broncs will put the time to good use.

"We will continue to work on our doubles," he said. "After playing the first two matches, each guy knows what he needs to specifically work on."

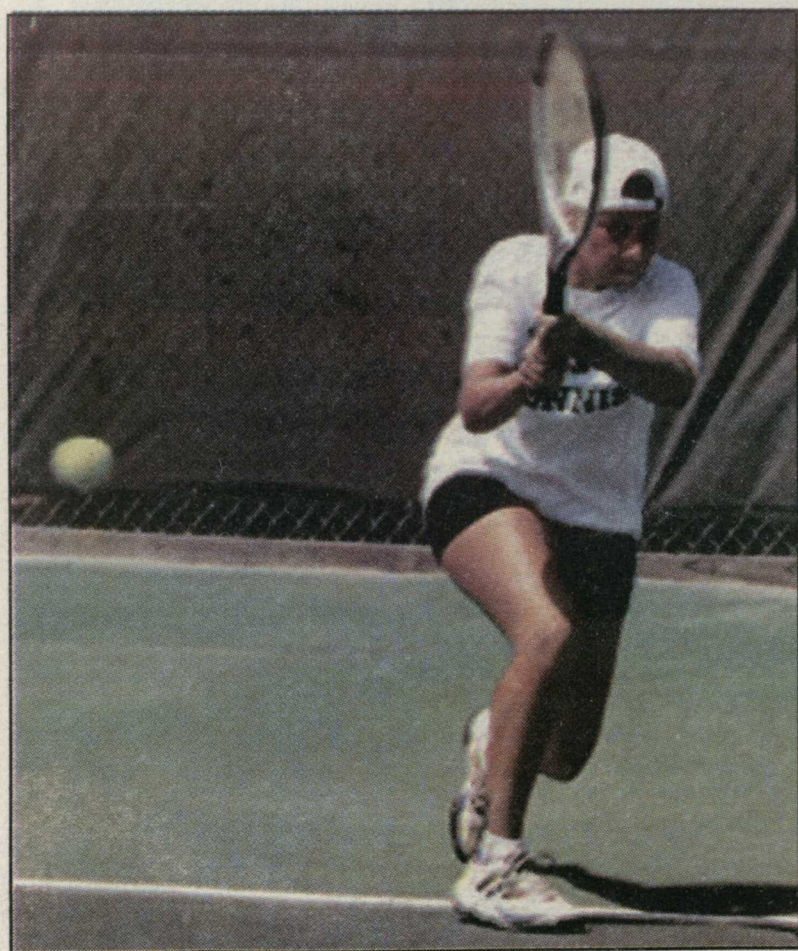


-Bernie Saenz

**Pierre Cantu was on of three Broncs who picked up a singles win against Southeastern Louisiana.**

Playing on their home courts should give the Broncs an added advantage over their traveling opponents. "We'll have support

we didn't have for the other matches," Howard said. "We hope to have a pretty big crowd."



-Sports Information

**Celine Merlini playing in number one singles, defeated Anna Doan in three straight sets in the teams first meet of the season over Southern Louisiana at the University of Houston.**

## Women's tennis team defeats Southeastern Louisiana

### Sports Information

Celine Merlini won a tough three-set match to help lead the University of Texas-Pan American to a 4-3 win over Southeastern Louisiana in women's tennis action Saturday at the University of Houston Tennis Courts.

Merlini, a freshman from Vevey, Switzerland, had to come from behind to defeat Anna Doan, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3. The win at number one singles broke a 3-3 tie in the match and gave the Lady Broncs a win in the first match of the season. Also picking up singles wins were Jessica Brown at number five and Alana Breen at number six. Eve Nickelson and Brown were winners at number two doubles and Mireya Villareal and Breen picked up the win at number three doubles.

"That was a pretty exciting match," said UTPA Head Coach

### Records

**UTPA: 1-0**

**SLU: 0-1**

### SINGLES

**Celine Merlini (UTPA) d. Anna Doan (SLU), 4-6, 6-3, 6-3**  
**Karin Mohl (SLU) d. Eve Nickelson (UTPA), 6-0, 6-1**  
**Yessica Rizelia (SLU) d. Julie Fife (UTPA), 6-4, 3-6, 7-5**  
**Jessica Brown (UTPA) d. Klementyna Zaruski (SLU), 6-3, 6-1**

**Alana Breen (UTPA) won by default**

### DOUBLES

**Doan-Mohl (SLU) d. Merlini-Fife (UTPA), 8-2**  
**Nickelson-Brown (UTPA) d. Lewis-Rizelia (SLU), 8-1**  
**Villareal/Breen (UTPA) won by default**

Scott Howard. "We got a real good win at number two doubles. Eve and Jessica got us off to a good start. Celine isn't 100 percent, but she rallied to win after dropping the first set. That was a good win for her. Jessica Brown played very well, winning both her singles and doubles. It was a good win for the team, they beat us 7-2 last

year. We have a lot of girls playing their first Division I team match. To win a match like that was good."

The Lady Broncs (1-0) will return to action on Friday, February 2nd against Missouri at 9 a.m. and Sam Houston State at 2 p.m. in San Marcos, Texas.